



COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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KEMMERER, WY 83101

COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS FOR LINCOLN,
SWEETWATER, UINTA, AND SUBLETTE - WYOMING

September 18, 2015

Mr. David Waterstreet
Watershed Section Manager
WYDEQ/WQD
Herschler Building 4-W
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Shaun McGrath
Region VIII EPA Administrations
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Re: CLG's Comments Regarding Categorical Use Attainability Analysis (CUAA) for
Primary and Secondary Contact Recreation Use on Wyoming Waters

Dear Mr. Waterstreet and Administrator McGrath:

The Coalition of Local Governments (CLG), on behalf of its members, appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding Categorical Use Attainability Analysis (CUAA) for Primary and Secondary Contact Recreation Use on Wyoming Waters. The CLG also incorporates those comments submitted by the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) by reference here.

The CLG is a voluntary association of local governments organized under the laws of the State of Wyoming to educate, guide, and develop public land policy in the affected counties. Wyo. Stat. §§11-16-103, 11-16-122. Coalition members include Lincoln County, Sweetwater County, Uinta County, Sublette County, Lincoln County Conservation District, Sweetwater Conservation District, Uinta County Conservation District, Sublette County Conservation District, and Little Snake River Conservation District.

Both county and conservation district members of the CLG have authority to protect the public health and welfare of Wyoming citizens while promoting and protecting public lands and natural resources. Wyo. Stat. §§18-5-102; Wyo. Stat. §§11-16-122. Given this broad statutory charge and wealth of experience in public land matters, the CLG has enjoyed a long history as a cooperating entity and has coordinated efforts with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) BLM, USFWS and other federal, state, and local entities.

WDEQ administers the Clean Water Act (CWA) which obligates states to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution of water resources while planning for its use. Gathering and evaluating credible data is essential to each of these purposes and WDEQ has implemented a Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (Program) to collect “scientifically valid water quality monitoring data using established data collection methods and assessing those data in a consistent manner.” Program at 1. Data gathered under the Program is then evaluated by the standards contained in Chapter 1 of Wyoming's Water Quality Rules and Regulations (WDEQ, 2013a). The collected and evaluated data is used to determine whether the navigable waters of the state are meeting Section 305's requirements. This credible data standard is based on state law and drives the collection, analysis and application of water data. The over-arching objective is to exclude effects of bias or lack of training. Wyo. Stat. §§35-11-103(xix), 35-11-302(b)(i).

The CLG has provided input to the WDEQ and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on water quality issues and the proposed WDEQ's CUAA model. This model has been available to any interested parties in the past to review. The CLG has spent many hours validating the WDEQ CUAA GIS model. Some of the sites were located in remote drainages that required extensive hikes to document the conditions of the tributaries. This was done in order to accurately substantiate stream classifications and conditions.

The CLG board members feel confident that the WDEQ's CUAA is scientifically defensible and an accurate approach to addressing the designation of primary and secondary contact recreation use for Wyoming waters. It gives the CLG an opportunity to emphasize the protection and improvement of water quality on primary recreational use water as done in the past.

The CLG requests your approval of the Categorical Use Attainability Analysis (CUAA) for primary and secondary contact recreation use on Wyoming waters as submitted by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ). The CLG has invested considerable time and financial resources over the years into water quality work. It is the CLG's priority to protect the water quality in Wyoming waters where recreational use is attainable.

The CLG is looking forward to EPA's approval of the WDEQ's CUAA so that water quality work in the CLG can be focused on local priority recreational use waters.

Shaun McGrath
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Sincerely,

/s/ Kent Connelly

Kent Connelly, Chairman
Coalition of Local Governments